

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159746

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, PDIP

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPERTY CONCERNS IN NEW YORK

REF: USUN 1657

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT'S NOTE OF
JANUARY 7, 1977, TO SOVIET EMBASSY:

2. QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WISHES TO REMIND THE
EMBASSY, THAT ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY AND ESTABLISHED
PRACTICE ALL SOVIET DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS,
AND ALL SOVIET GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, MUST CONSULT THE DEPART-
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MENT OF STATE AND OBTAIN THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL BEFORE
PURCHASING PROPERTY, LEASING OFFICE SPACE OR UNDERTAKING
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE UNITED STATES; AND BEFORE
SIGNING ANY CONTRACTS, OPTIONS OR COMMITMENTS TO PURCHASE
PROPERTY, LEASE OFFICE SPACE, OR UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS.

3. QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT THE EMBASSY INFORM
THE SOVIET MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OF THE ABOVE.
UNQUOTE

4. SOVIETS ARE WELL AWARE THAT THEY MUST HAVE OUR APPROVAL

OF PROJECTS SUCH AS THOSE DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL. WITH REGARD
TO SIX CABINS ON SOVIET UPPER BROOKVILLE PROPERTY, WE HAVE
NO PROBLEM WITH PROPOSAL AND YOU MAY INFORM FOKINE THAT WE
WILL APPROVE, POINTING OUT THAT SOVIETS MUST, HOWEVER,
REQUEST OUR APPROVAL BY NOTE AS IN OTHER CASES. NOTE MAY
BE SENT FROM SMUN TO USUN, WHICH IS AUTHORIZED TO APPROVE
REQUEST BY RETURN NOTE. SMUN WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO
OBSERVE LOCAL ZONING AND PROPERTY LAW AND REGULATIONS,
WHICH WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY OUR APPROVAL.

5. FYI RE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO ERECT ANOTHER APARTMENT
HIGHRISE ON RIVERDALE PROPERTY, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT
IMPLICATIONS REGARDING SIZE OF SOVIET STAFF IN NEW YORK.
SMUN IS ALREADY AT LEAST THREE TIMES LARGER THAN THAT OF
ANY OTHER FOREIGN MISSION TO UN IN NEW YORK AND WE FIND IT
DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE FURTHER INCREASES ARE NECESSARY. IF,
IN FACT, NEW BUILDING PRESAGES LARGER SMUN STAFF, RATHER
THAN CONSOLIDATION OF EXISTING STAFF INTO RIVERDALE APART-
MENT COMPLEX, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO BE OVERLY FORTHCOMING.
END FYI.

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6. WE SUGGEST USUN HAVE ANOTHER DISCUSSION WITH SMUN
ABOUT THEIR PROPOSAL AND INFORM SOVIETS THAT A) WE NEED TO
HAVE FURTHER DETAILS IN WRITING ABOUT SOVIET PROPOSAL
(NUMBER OF UNITS, SIZE, LOCATION, ETC); B) WE WOULD ALSO
NEED TO KNOW IF THEY PLAN TO RELINQUISH CURRENTLY-RENTED
HOUSING IN CITY TO CONSOLIDATE STAFF HOUSING AT RIVERDALE
OR IF THEIR PROPOSAL IS KEYED TO INCREASES IN MISSION
STAFF; C) AT SOME POINT SOVIETS WILL HAVE TO MAKE FORMAL
REQUEST BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE FOR OUR APPROVAL OF PROJECT, IF
IT PROGRESSES TO THAT STAGE, AND THIS REQUEST SHOULD BE
MADE FAR IN ADVANCE OF SIGNING ANY CONTRACTS OR MAKING
COMMITMENTS TO US ARCHITECTS OR CONTRACTORS; AND D) IN
VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE PROPOSAL ALSO APPARENTLY
INVOLVES THE PERSONNEL OF SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS NOT
CONNECTED WITH UN (TRADE MISSIONS, ETC.), IT IS LIKELY
THAT SUBJECT WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON
BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND SOVEMBASSY.

7. BEFORE COMING TO A DECISION ON ADDITIONAL BUILDING
SITE, DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE IF USUN WOULD ADVISE US IF
ZONING REGULATIONS WOULD PROHIBIT SOVIET PROPOSAL. VANCE

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